

What is claimed is:

1. A database updating apparatus comprising:
a computer network;
a server which provides database-related information through the computer network;
and
a user computer which accesses the server through the computer network and retrieves the database-related information, wherein:
the user computer comprises an optical disc recording/reproducing apparatus which records data in or reproduces data from an optical disc, in which a database and a date and time of a last update of the database are recorded, and which is programmed to transmit the date and time of the last update to the server and to record modified/updated data, which is transmitted from the server, on the optical disc; and
the server is programmed to determine if modification/update of the database recorded on the optical disc is needed based on the transmitted date and time, and to transmit the modified/updated data to the optical disc recording/reproducing apparatus.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the optical disc has a reproducible region and a recordable region, and the optical disc recording/reproducing apparatus records modified/updated data transmitted from the server and the date and time of the last update in the recordable region.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the server transmits a purchase order, which is received from the user computer, to the user computer and the optical disc recording/reproducing apparatus records the purchase order on the optical disc.
4. A method of updating a database comprising:
permitting a user computer usable with a recordable disc, on which is recorded a vendor database, to access a server of the database vendor through a computer network;
receiving a date and time of a last update of the database recorded on the disc from the user computer and determining whether modification/update of the database is needed;
transmitting modified/updated data to the user computer if modification/update is needed; and
recording the modified/updated data on the recordable disc.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the disc has a reproducible region and a recordable region, and the method further comprises recording the modified/updated data in the

recordable region.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the method further comprises recording a new time of last update of the disc in the recordable region.

7. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

transmitting a purchase order of the user from the user computer to the vendor server;

transmitting information related to the purchase order from the vendor server to the user computer; and

recording the purchase order information on the recordable disc.

8. A server for providing information related to a database installed in a user computer through a computer network, the server comprising:

a database server which stores modified/updated data of the database and a date and time of update of the database;

an update and time inputting unit which receives a date and time of a last update of the database installed in the user computer from the user computer which accesses the server through the computer network;

an update determining unit which determines whether an update is needed in the database installed in the user computer by comparing the date and time of the last update input by the user with the date and time of update stored in the database server; and

a transmitting unit which reads the stored modified/updated data and transmits the modified/updated data, if the update determining unit determines that an update of the database installed in the user computer is needed.

9. A disc recording/reproducing apparatus which is installed in a user computer and records/reproduces data in/from a recordable disc, the apparatus comprising:

a recordable disc on which an updatable database and an update date and time of the database are recorded;

an inputting unit which receives modified/updated data of the database from the user computer;

a recording unit which records the modified/updated data of the database, the date and time of update, and an updated address table on the recordable disc; and

an updated address table generating unit which generates an updated address table having addresses, of which the modified/updated data are recorded on the disc, and

provides the updated address table to the recording unit.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein:

an operating program for updating the database is recorded on the recordable disc,

and

the operating program instructs the recording/reproducing apparatus to access a server for providing services of the database through the user computer and the computer network, and where the server is accessed, to read the date and time of the last update from the disc, and to provide the date and time of the last update to the server.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the disc has a reproducible region and a

recordable region, and the modified/updated data of the database and the date and time of its update are recorded in the recordable region.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the recordable disc is an optical disc.

13. A disc recording/reproducing apparatus which is installed in a user computer and records/reproduces a recordable disc, the apparatus comprising:

a recordable disc on which updatable database and an update date and time are recorded;

a receiving unit which accesses a server providing services of the database through the user computer and a computer network;

a determining unit which determines whether an update of the database recorded on the disc is needed based on information acquired from the server, and in response to determining that update of the database recorded on the disc is needed, the determining unit requests the server to transmit modified/updated data through the user computer and the computer network;

an inputting unit which receives modified/updated data of the database provided from the server through the user computer and the computer network;

a recording unit which records modified/updated data of the database, the date and time of update, and an updated address table on the recordable disc; and

an updated address table generating unit which generates the updated address table having addresses, of which the modified/updated data are recorded on the disc, and provides the updated address table to the recording unit.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein:

the information acquired from the server is a date and time; and
the determining unit determines whether an update of the database recorded on the disc is needed by comparing the date and time acquired from the server with the date and time of update recorded on the disc.

15. A method of remotely modifying/updating a database, the method comprising:
distributing a version of the database on an optical disc having a read only region for storing original data and a recordable region for storing update data for the original data;
establishing a communications link between the optical disc and a server, the server having update data stored thereon;
determining whether the update data stored on server is included in the data stored on the recordable region of the optical disc; and
transmitting the update data to the recordable region of the optical disc, in response to determining that update data stored on the server is not included in the update data stored on the recordable region of the optical disc.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the establishing of the communications link comprises:

inputting a personal password to the server; and
receiving an encrypted password from the server.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the determining comprises:

transmitting an indicator corresponding to an update status of the optical disc to the server;
comparing the transmitted indicator with a corresponding indicator stored on the server.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the indicator is a first date and time and the corresponding indicator is a second date and time.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the determining comprises:

transmitting an indicator corresponding to an update status of the server; and
comparing the transmitted indicator with a corresponding indicator stored on the optical disc.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the indicator is a first date and time and the

corresponding indicator is a second date and time.

21. An apparatus for conducting electronic commerce with a server through a computer network, the server having update information for a database and a first indicator associated with the update information stored thereon, the apparatus comprising:

- an optical disc having a read only region and a recordable region, the optical disc having the database and a second indicator corresponding to an update status of the database stored thereon, the database stored in the read only region;
- a user computer which:
 - accesses the server through the computer network;
 - transmits an encrypted password to identify the user computer to the server;
 - obtains the first indicator from the server if the server recognizes the encrypted password;
 - compares the first indicator with the second indicator; and
 - if the second indicator does not correspond to the first indicator, obtains the update information from the server; and
 - stores the obtained update information in the recordable region and links the stored information to the database.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the computer transmits a purchase order to the server based on the database and the linked information.

23. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the read only region of the optical disc stores an encryption key and the computer transmits the encryption key to the server to obtain the encrypted password.

24. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the computer stores the encrypted password in the recordable region of the optical disc.

25. An apparatus for conducting electronic commerce with a server through a computer network, the server having update information for a database and a first indicator associated with the update information stored thereon, the apparatus comprising:

- an optical disc having a read only region and a recordable region, the optical disc having the database and a second indicator corresponding to an update status of the database stored thereon, the database stored in the read only region;
- a user computer which:

accesses the server through the computer network;
transmits an encrypted password to identify the user computer to the server;
transmits an update request and the second indicator to the server if the server recognizes the encrypted password;
obtains the update information from the server if the second indicator does not correspond to the first indicator; and
stores the obtained update information in the recordable region and links the stored information to the database.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the computer transmits a purchase order to the server based on the database and the linked information.

27. An optical disc for enabling a computer to engage in electronic commerce with a server through a computer network, the optical disc comprising:

a read only region which stores:

a database,

an encryption code which identifies the disc, and

an operating program which provides instructions to the computer for operating the database and for communicating with the server through the computer network; and

a recordable region which stores:

update information for the database,

a time and date corresponding to the update information, and

an encrypted password; wherein:

the operating program instructs the computer to:

communicate the encryption code to the server and to store an encrypted password provided by the server in the recordable region of the disc,

submit the encrypted password to the server,

request the server to provide new update information based on the update time and date, and

store new update information and a new time and date provided by the server in the recordable region of the optical disc.